

Social Forms and Entertainments



Mother Goose Party.

Masquerade and fancy dress parties are always delightful, but of all the pleasant gatherings which I have attended the Mother Goose party takes the lead. Invitations to the effect that Mother Goose will be pleased to welcome her goslings at the residence of whoever gives the entertainment on such an evening, are sent out fully two weeks in advance. The request to come in costume representing some one of the characters found in "Mother Goose" can be written on a small card and inclosed in the envelope with the invitations. These invitations can be made very pretty if one can paint, by having little water color or pen and ink sketches on them—such as little "Jack Horner" or the "Three Blind Mice" pursued by the "Farmer's Wife," with her "Carving Knife."

You may be sure after these notes have been sent out that there will be a ripple of excitement among the young people, and Mother Goose melodies will be at a premium—those with colored illustrations in particular. Great ingenuity can be exercised in getting up the costumes. At last the eventful night arrives and let us station ourselves in the hall and watch the guests as they come in. Most of the girls came without escorts, for all were determined to keep their identity a secret from brothers and sweethearts. "Mother Goose," the hostess, stands in the front parlor and is soon welcoming a motley throng. "Old King Cole" was closely followed by "The Fiddlers Three." "Little Red Riding Hood" was charming in her scarlet cape and carried a little basket filled with candy instead of the eggs and butter. The "Queen of Hearts" was radiant in a gorgeous costume. "Rain, Rain, Stay Away" was represented by a pretty blond, who carried an immense red umbrella. "Little Boy Blue" dashed into the room, blowing his horn, carrying an immense sheep of cotton. Two girls exactly the same height came as twin "Bo Peeps," carrying gilded crooks and fans with the picture of a sheep on one side with "I'm Little Bo Peep," etc., on the other. "Daffy Down Dilly" was one of the best characters represented. "Jack and Jill" went hand in hand to get the "pail of water." "Jack Horner" sat in the proverbial corner and pulled out "plums" from a gigantic "plum." "Humpty" Dumpty did not look any the worse for the "great fall." "Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary" proved herself most agreeable and "Taffy, the Welshman" was one of the most popular characters in spite of his propensity for stealing.

When all the guests had arrived Mother Goose, with Old King Cole, opened the grand march and the music played merrily. A piano will do for the dancing, but the addition of a violin is a great improvement. Much merriment was occasioned when the masks were removed before the refreshments were served. While the young people are home for the summer vacation some one may give a party like the one described, and I am sure it will be successful. Of course, the masking is not essential, but adds a little spice to the enjoyment. The refreshments need not be elaborate, but a large bowl of lemonade should be conveniently placed where it will be easy of access to all.

A Novel Card Party.

This pretty card party was conducted like a cotillon and was a great success. It was given for forty guests, and the tables were scattered throughout the large rooms of a spacious country house. In the first place each

guest found her place at table with three others by means of a souvenir name card.

When all had arrived and were seated at the tables the hostess was very particular to personally introduce each partner, if unacquainted, which made everyone feel more comfortable. Then the bell rang and playing began. Four games were played and the losers were the ones to move, going to a table for favors. These they gave to the winners at the other tables, who were taken to the table of the losers, and thus they met an entirely new set of players. There was no counting of scores—simply the best three hands winning out of four. There were ten sets of favors. After five sets of favors had been used refreshments were served, then playing was resumed until all the favors had been used. At the last each loser brought an extra favor for her favored partner and herself, which called forth much merriment, as they were large paper sacks blown out and tied at the top with various colored ribbons. They were to carry the favors home in, and they were needed. It certainly was a very jolly party, and the idea is adaptable to all card parties where the hostess desires something out of the ordinary. The favors may be as elaborate as the purse will permit. The ones at the party described consisted of bonbons in fancy boxes, imported chocolate, salted nuts in dainty receptacles, paper aprons, neck ruffs of flowers, fans, parasols, paper hats, post cards, etc.

Portraying Nature With Bible Verses.

Very recently a correspondent asked me for some Bible scheme to interest children, to be used as part of a Sunday school program. Seems to me the following arranged by Harriette Wilbur would be acceptable. Learning the verses as given will teach the children about the Bible and how much it contains about the flowers that we have today. This could be used on "Children's day," which is observed in so many churches early in June.

1. Lily (Luke 12:27). Bouquet of lilies, anemones or some lilaceous flower.
2. Grass (Luke 12:28). Bouquet of long grassblades tastefully arranged.
3. Star (Matthew 2:9-10). Large star.
4. Vine (John 15:1, 5). Long, graceful cutting of a grapevine.
5. Cedar (Psalms 92:12). Branch of cedar.
6. Wheat (Matthew 13:24-30). Stalks of wheat.
7. Flower (Isaiah 40:8). Bouquet of any flower in season.
8. Palm (John 12:12, 13). Palm branches.
9. Mustard (Matthew 13:31, 32). A mustard plant from some wheat field; the larger the plant the better.
10. Willow (Psalms 87:1, 2). Long willow branches.
11. Barley (Ruth 1:22). Stalks of barley.
12. Fir (Psalms 54:16, 17). Branches of fir.
13. Rose (Isaiah 24:1). Bouquet of roses.
14. Rushes (Isaiah 35:7). Handful of tall rushes.
15. Oak (2 Kings 13:14, revised version). Some oak branches.
16. In concert: Palms 46:11, 12, 13.

A Flower Contest.

A LESSON IN ADDITION AND SUBTRACTION.

1. The early part of the day + splendor.
2. A bird + part of a bird's foot.
3. To contest + a vowel + a verb.
4. A confection + a cluster.
5. A false hood + a sheer fabric.
6. Two times one + part of the month.
7. A wily animal + a covering for the hands.
8. A vegetable + a strain of music + two vowels.
9. A girl's name + a precious metal.
10. A dairy product + a drinking receptacle.

ANSWERS—1. Morning + glory. 2. Lark + spur. 3. Vie + e + vi + o + let = violet. 4. Candy + tuft. 5. Lie + e + ll + lace = lac + iliac. 6. Tu (two) + lip = tulip. 7. Fox + glove. 8. Pea + a + pe + tune = tun + la = petunia. 9. Mari (Mary) + gold = marigold. 10. Butter + cup = buttercup.

MADAME MERRI.

Most Approved Designs in Shoes for Fashionable Feet



The boots of washable leather have apers of tan cloth, and are for wear with tailored suits. The pump is an improvement on that of former seasons. It is more easy to keep on. A buckle over the base of the instep helps to hold them in place, and a small strip of suede, which clings to the stocking, is usually fastened inside the heel of the shoe. The low cut evening slipper is often fastened over the instep and about the ankle with bands of ribbon. These bands are fastened on opposite sides of the slipper rim about an inch from the

buckle. They are crossed over the instep, crossed at the back of the ankle, crossed again higher up at the front of the ankle and fastened behind.

For wear with afternoon gowns black satin shoes have preference over every other sort. The boot shown has a ribbed satin vamp and fastens with black pearl buttons. Black satin wears well and can be relied on to hold shape and cut.

The patent leather slipper shown with the French heel has a cut steel buckle strapped with velvet.

NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM



By William Pitt

Keep ahead of weeds.
Geese are money makers.
Bran is excellent for layers.
Shelter the manure spreader.
Careful feeding prevents scours.

Potatoes are only a fair feed for cows.

Clean cultivation in the orchard is necessary.

Corn silage and alfalfa hay make a balanced ration.

The cow that is a good producer must be fed liberally.

Don't make the garden too small for the hand-wheel hoe.

Alkali water has very little effect upon the flavor of butter.

The best way to kill out weeds is never to let 'em come up.

Two-fifths of the world's 100 million swine are in the United States.

The milk giving quality can be developed only when it is inherited.

There is much more to plowing than sitting up and holding the lines.

Similarity of breeding stock produces offspring of much greater value.

Give the stock plenty of salt, and be sure they drink an abundance of water.

The most expensive help on some farms is the dog sent to round up the cows.

The vegetable and fruit garden can be made the most profitable acre on the farm.

Success in dairy farming depends as much on the man as upon any natural condition.

In planting a new orchard it is far better to use too much space than to crowd the trees.

Sunshine, pure air and clean surroundings will do much to make the dairy barn more attractive.

If you must use manure in the newly planted orchard, better put it on top of the ground—never in the hole with the tree.

Calves should have the milk warm from the separator, and the pigs should have their share sweet and in the same way.

Not much use treating seed potatoes for scab if they are to be planted in the same ground where the crop was scabby last year.

Many of the good dairymen started with Shorthorn and dual purpose cows. As soon as they began to study, however, they changed.

Two eyes to the piece is the right way to cut seed potatoes, but have the piece large enough so as to give the sprouts a good start.

The common disk harrow found upon every farm in the northwest is one of the most valuable of all the implements used by the farmer.

In setting out trees the holes should not be dug too far in advance. The sooner the tree is set after digging the hole the better the start it will make.

Enlarge the early orchard for early fruits. It is rather difficult to have a surplus of early and late fruits. The middle season is more easily overstocked.

The black raspberry thrives best on land that lies well for natural drainage. It can not be grown on land that is naturally of a wet and therefore cold nature.

Milking is one of the most important tasks on the farm and should be so considered. It can scarcely be called a side issue when so much profit depends upon it.

The silo has now become almost a necessity on the farm, if profits are looked for. There are many farms on which it is not yet found, but the number of these is decreasing.

Poor butter is the curse of the farm dairy. It is better economy to sell the butter-fat or the whole-milk than to try to manufacture the product at some if you have not the equipment with which to turn out a high quality. This equipment is available and it can certainly be secured or there should be a change in your plans.

Beware of poor seed.
Live stock means success.
Chicks need much attention.
Make paths and borders neat.
Tankage is recommended for sows.
Silage will not injure the cow's teeth.
Alfalfa is the greatest permanent hog forage.
Evergreens ought to be planted as early as possible.
Head work will often save hard work on the farm.
All the various breeds of hogs save their ardent admirers.
Oats and peas will provide a good growing ration for hogs.
Oats cut at the proper time make a very good quality of hay.
Every pig that goes to pasture should have a ring in his nose.
The best way to get nitrogen into the soil is to sow it in with clover.
Select a gilt that is inclined to be growthy rather than a fat, chubby one.
You cannot rush a hog, and as soon as you try it you will get in a mess.

It does not take much buttermilk in the butter to make it turn rancid early.

During the summer months, the ewes should have access to luxuriant pasture.

If you can't afford to buy a pure-bred cow or bull, buy a calf and breed up a herd.

There is just as much need of improved dairymen as there is of improved herds.

When in doubt as to what use to make of hen manure, try it as a top dressing on grass.

The farm should be well supplied with garden tools if you want the boys to do the work.

Continued close confinement in the stalls is liable to cause permanent enlargement of the joints.

This is the season to plan the buildings and changes that will be made on the farm a little later.

Big machinery is not always profitable. The machine should fit the farm and the power to handle it.

If you cannot provide a dip for swine, give them a spray. The boys can spray hogs without any trouble.

The horses that are best able to stand hard strains are those which work steadily every day in the week.

When opening your silo bear in mind that whenever you change feed the change should be made gradually.

One good cow well fed and cared for will give more net profits than two good cows not so well fed and cared for.

Raising chickens in confinement under too artificial conditions leads to ultimate trouble in the laying and breeding pens.

The best piece of advice for a beginner in poultry raising is to go slow at first. Start with a few birds and learn as you go.

Once more through the corn will add many bushels to your crop. Muzzle the horse, use a short whiffletree and cultivate shallow.

Prune a little every year rather than too much one year. It will be much easier for you, and a great deal better for the orchard.

No one who has a first-class garden is ever heard to express any regrets about it. Not so the one who has none and buys his vegetable in tin cans.

Do you have some tomato and early cabbage plants growing? If not it isn't too late yet to plant some seed. Get busy though, spring is coming fast.

A prominent horticulturist says: "Never mulch young trees. It draws the roots toward the surface and makes them susceptible to changes in temperature."

If you are not sure whether or not a hen is broody enough to take eggs, put your hand under her breast. If she grips it with her breast, she is ready for eggs.

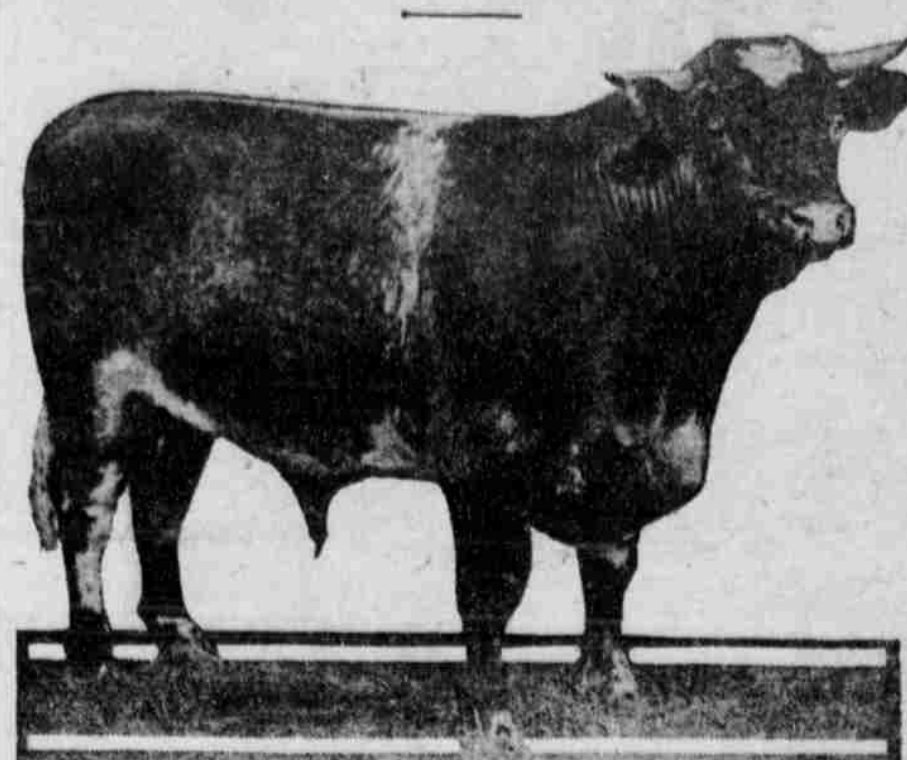
It is best not to let a new sifter have eggs until you are sure she means business. Give her two or three eggs for a couple of days and see if she is a stickler.

Only a few farmers at the present time have the ideal ration for dairy cows, but they can and should arrange to grow it on the farm and have it on hand at all times.

The trailing nasturtiums are among the earliest annuals to grow and will give a supply of flowers the whole season. Plant when danger of frost is past, or in pots or boxes, and transplant to the open later.

ARGENTINA CATTLE INDUSTRY MUCH MORE PATRONIZED THAN IN THE UNITED STATES

In Temperate Zone Almost Entire Life of Animal May Be Spent Out of Doors Without Shelter of Any Kind—Luxuriant Growth of Alfalfa Makes Beef Production Cheap.



Champion Short Horn Bull, Sold at International Stock Show, Chicago, for Export to Argentina.

(By W. H. MUMFORD.)

Cattle raising for beef in Argentina, especially in the temperate zone, is a much more favored industry than in the United States. The climate makes it possible for the entire life of cattle to be spent out of doors without shelter and generally without shade of any kind. Alfalfa grows most luxuriantly, and the suitability of a very large acreage for the growth of that crop and of other nutritious indigenous and introduced legumes and grasses, together with cheap land and labor, makes it possible to produce beef cheaply. To any one unacquainted with the possibilities of the country, the degree of fatness which the cattle acquire on grass or alfalfa alone is a marvel. Corn feeding as a supplement to pasture for beef production is extremely rare. Beef-making in Argentina at present therefore is practically a strict pasture proposition.

There is quite an extensive area well suited to, and at present partially used for, the growing of corn, but as yet, and probably for some years to come, this product will be either exported or used for horse, dairy cow, and pig feeding. Only the flint varieties are grown generally. It is evident that the natural advantages of Argentina enable her cattle products profitably to compete as they are already doing, with the grass cattle and lower grades of native beef produced in this country. North American corn-fed beef, so long as the supply lasts, doubtless will continue to command a premium over Argentine grass cattle in the market of the world. Although Argentina eventually may develop the production of corn-fed cattle which her soil and climate render quite possible, it is probable that the domestic demand in the United States by that time will

absorb, and indeed already absorbs, practically the entire amount of beef produced here, thus rendering our export trade, and consequently foreign competition abroad, an unimportant factor in the industry. The chief concern of beef producers in this country should be not what effect will South American competition have upon our export trade, but what effect will the possible importation of South American beef to the United States have upon the production of beef cattle here.

That corn, and likewise corn-fed cattle, can be produced in Argentina, Uruguay, and some other South American countries is an assured fact. The extent to which it will be fed to cattle, however, is limited by the relatively small production of corn and further by the fact that it is a new industry and will not gain favor rapidly because it involves more cropping and labor and considerably more expense.

It is significant that the expansion of cattle raising in Argentina has ceased, and largely because grain growing is proving more profitable than cattle raising. The beef product will be much improved but the supply available for export doubtless will not increase more rapidly than the combined factors of increased population there and among nations consuming her surplus, and the relative decrease of beef production elsewhere. South American beef surplus will be in strong demand; obviously countries willing to pay the highest premium for it will secure it. Again, the cost of production is sure to increase with increased cost of labor and land. Under such conditions it is not anticipated that the business of raising beef cattle in the United States will be menaced permanently by Argentine.

SEVERAL DANGERS IN BREEDING EWES

Lamb That Is Bred in First Year Will Remain Stunted—Much Food Is Wasted.

It is natural that a lamb should put in its first year in growing, both in height and breadth as well as in volume. The feed consumed should contribute to this end. When the lamb is bred, much of the nourishment intended for itself must go toward the nourishment of the foetus. For that reason the development of the mother is retarded, and, in fact, is never again resumed to anything like the degree first seen.

A lamb that is bred in the first year will remain stunted. Even its wool will fail to make anything like normal growth. The first year's wool crop is usually counted on to be the largest, but it is little to boast of if the lamb is bred. Like tissue, wool requires feed to promote its growth, and when the feed has to be used for other purposes the wool does not grow.

It may be argued that heavier feeding of the lamb would overcome these objections, says New York Farmer, but as a matter of fact there is a maximum amount of feed that the not yet fully developed digestive system of the lamb cannot handle, and beyond this amount the food is voided from the body in an unassimilated state, without doing the lamb any good. Rather will it exhaust the energies of the lamb still further to handle this mass of food from which it cannot derive any benefit.

If an unusually fine lamb resulted from the breeding of a young ewe, then there might be some reason for sacrificing the growthiness of the mother; but as a matter of fact, quite the opposite condition holds true in the majority of cases. An immature ewe seldom produces a sturdy lamb. Her offspring is usually lacking both in size and vigor and seldom proves to be a growthy, prolific animal.

The reasons for this are obvious:

First, the lack of competent development of the mother and the somewhat imperfect functioning of her various organs; and, secondly, the existence of such conditions of affairs that the food which should go to the nourishment of the foetus must be utilized in part for the upbuilding and growth of the mother.

A flock in which a practice of breeding young ewes is made deteriorates rapidly, and in a short time undersized, weakly and ungrowthy sheep will be found in it. The man who desires to maintain size and growth in his sheep, to keep up a high wool yield and to improve his flock in general should not yield to the sometimes great temptation to breed his young ewe lambs.

CORN SMUT IS VERY INJURIOUS

Only Way to Control Disease Is to Destroy Balls—Change of Land Benefits.

(By E. M. FREEMAN, Plant Pathology, and Botany, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.)

Corn smut may occur upon any part of the corn plant; it may also infect any young and tender part, at any stage of the corn plant's life. During the winter the spores live in the soil or in manure. In this respect corn smut is different from the grain smuts; in none of the latter is there any appreciable danger of infection from spores which have lived over in the soil. In the spring the spores germinate, producing long chains of new spores, which are blown about by the wind and infect any growing part of the corn plant, producing, finally, smut balls. The spores may live in the soil or in manure piles for years. This, of course, makes seed treatment useless; and the only way to control the smut is to destroy all smut balls, when possible, to prevent them from shedding their spores on the ground or into manure, and avoid placing fresh manure on corn land. Changing corn land from year to year also is beneficial.